

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAJ-01 NIC-01 EB-11 COME-00 SCI-06 DRC-01

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R 180750Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5547

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, ECON, PINR, CZ

SUBJ: CHANGES IN CZECHOSLOVAK MINISTERS AND MINISTRIES

1. FEDERAL ASSEMBLY MET DECEMBER 12-13 FOR CEREMONIAL APPROVAL OF NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET BUT ALSO PASSED LAW, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, SPLITTING FEDERAL MINISTRY OF METALLURGY AND ENGINEERING INTO (A) FEDERAL MINISTRY OF METALLURGY AND HEAVY ENGINEERING AND (B) FEDERAL MINISTRY OF GENERAL ENGINEERING. SO FAR AS WE CAN JUDGE, REASON FOR SPLIT IS POOR PERFORMANCE OF ENGINEERING INDUSTRY, WHICH ALONG WITH CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY IS ONE OF TWO WEAKEST LINKS IN ECONOMY. MINISTRY (A) WILL CONTROL BRANCHES HAVING "CLOSE RELATIONSHIP TO METALLURGICAL PRODUCTION", I.E., MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT FOR POWER GENERATION AND FOR METALLURGICAL, CHEMICAL, CONSTRUCTION, FOOD, AND RAILWAY-VEHICLE INDUSTRIES. MINISTRY (B) WILL CONTROL AUTOMOBILE, AVIATION AND AGRICULTURAL-EQUIPMENT PRODUCTION, LOW-CURRENT ELECTRIC INDUSTRY, AND VARIOUS BRANCHES OF LIGHT INDUSTRY.

2. FOLLOWING CHANGES IN GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP, RESULTING PARTLY FROM ABOVE SPLIT IN MINISTRIES, WERE ANNOUNCED IN "RUDE PRAVO" DECEMBER 15:

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(A) RUDOLF ROHLICEK, UNTIL NOW FEDERAL MINISTER OF FINANCE,

BECOMES DEPUTY FEDERAL PREMIER;

(B) VLASTIMIL EHRENBERGER, FORMER NORTH MORAVIAN PARTY  
SECRETARY AND MEMBER OF CC NATIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSION,  
ALSO BECOMES FEDERAL DEPUTY PREMIER;

(C) JOSEF SIMON, UNTIL NOW FEDERAL MINISTER OF METALLURGY AND  
ENGINEERING, BECOMES NEW FEDERAL MINISTER OF METALLURGY AND  
HEAVY ENGINEERING;

(D) PAVOL BAHYL, UNTIL NOW DEPUTY CHIEF OF STATE PLANNING COMMISSION,  
BECOMES NEW FEDERAL MINISTER OF GENERAL ENGINEERING;

(E) LEOPOLD LER, UNTIL NOW CZECH REPUBLIC MINISTER OF FINANCE,  
REPLACES ROHLICEK AT FEDERAL MINISTRY OF FINANCE;

(F) VLADIMIR JANZA REPLACES BAHYL AT STATE PLANNING  
COMMISSION.

3. ASIDE FROM PRESUMED REDUCTION IN SIMON'S STANDING DUE TO  
SPLIT-UP OF HIS MINISTRY, MOST INTERESTING OF ABOVE MOVES IS  
PROMOTION OF ROHLICEK, A SLOVAK WHO SEEMS TO HAVE DONE A GOOD  
JOB AT FINANCE MINISTRY (AND WHO IS ONE OF FEW CZECHOSLOVAK MINISTERS  
TO VISIT U.S.) SIMULTANEOUS APPOINTMENT AS DEPUTY PREMIER OF  
EHRENBERGER, A CZECH, HELPS MAINTAIN CZECH-SLOVAK BALANCE BUT  
IS A CURIOUSLY BIG PROMOTION FOR A 38-YEAR-OLD REGIONAL PARTY  
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## Message Attributes

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